

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USEC

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SUBJECT: SPAIN AND THE EEC: THE 1970 AGREEMENT

REF: MADRID 2951

1. SUMMARY: IN NEGOTIATIONS STILL CONTINUING IN BRUSSELS, A SIGNIFICANT COMPROMISE HAS BEEN REACHED ON UPDATING THE 1970 EEC-6/SPAIN AGREEMENT. BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED ON EXTENDING THE AGREEMENT'S TRADE COVERAGE TO THE FULL EC-NINE BUT WITHOUT FORMALLY AMENDING THE 1970 ACCORD. SPAIN WILL RECEIVE UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR "STANDSTILL" TARIFF TREATMENT FOR ITS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE U.K. IRELAND AND DEMARK. COMPREHENSIVE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD NEXT FALL. SPANISH MFA TELLS US THAT THIS SCENARIO SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT IN DIPLOMATIC NOTES BEFORE THE END OF JUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE APRIL 5 EEC MANDATE FOR UPDATING THE 1970 ACCORD WITH SPAIN CALLED FOR A TWO-STEP APPROACH: EXPAND COVERAGE FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE EC-SIX TO THE EC-NINE AND THEN, IN THE FALL, NEGOTIATE LIMITED TARIFF REDUCTIONS. THE SPANISH CABINET PUBLICLY REJECTED THE EEC MANDATE (OR WHAT THE MANDATE WAS BELIEVED TO BE) AS "INSUFFICIENT" ON APRIL 15. A COMPROMISE VERSION OF THE TWO-STEP APPROACH WAS AGREED, TO IN PRINCIPAL, ON MAY 27 IN BRUSSELS. THE COMPROMISE BLURS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TWO

STEPS BY TAKING THE FIRST STEP IN A REVOCABLE AND LESS FORMAL WAY. ACCORDING TO MFA (FERRAN) AN EX-CHANGE OF NOTES TO BE HAMMERED OUT IN TWO TO THREE WEEKS WILLEXTEND 1970-ACCORDTARIFF TREATMENT TO ALL EC-NINE COUNTRIES AND SPAIN, EXCEPT THAT SPAIN WILRETAIN UNTIL THE END OF THIS YEAR UNCHANGED ACCESS TOTHE U.K. IRELANDAND DENMARK FOR SPANISH AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. SPAIN WILL NOT GET (AT LEAST NOT NOW) THE AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS ITHAD OPED FOR.

3. SPANISH EEC NEGOTIATIONS FOR MUTUAL TARIFF NELOTIATIT S, THESECOND STAGE I UPDATINGTHE 1970 ACCORD, ARE TO BE HELD NEXT FALL. THESE NEGOTIATINS WILL THEREFOREFALL AFTER THE EXPECTED SPANISH APPLICATION FOR FULEEC MEMBERSHIP AND BEFORE THE NEWEXPIRATION DATE FOR STANDSTILL TREAT- MENT IN THE U.K. IRISH AND DANISH AGRICULTURAL MARKETS.STABLER

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